

MONDAY
February 2, 1959
11:45 a.m.

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TELEPHONE CALL TO MR MERCHANT

The Sec said we are all for calling this meeting with the Russians to discuss the problems of Germany. We say that in this reply. Have we any reason at all to think we are going to have any positive position we can agree on and put forward at such a meeting? M is not certain we will have a position veering from the Geneva position which he replied he thinks the Germans will swing back to. They are thinking of a non-aggression bilateral pact with the Czechs and Poles and that would be the only concession. M thinks it is dubious there will be any substantial modification of the Eden plan etc. which could be agreed to between now and April and May. He thinks it will come down to a slightly different dressed up presentation of the same meal. The Sec said you do think they will stand on that and M said yes. He thinks we can get them back and hold on to the basic Geneva plan. The Sec thinks we will be asked that. He has just sent down a long paper from Adenauer. M has not seen it. The Sec said nothing new in it. The main thing is he says it is a mistake to play up the division of Germany as the cause of tension in the world - the tension is much more fundamental. He harps on the thesis re putting disarmament before everything else. They agreed this is putting the cart before the horse. M mentioned the call for a conf the last half of May and the Sec said the Charge was surprised - it was contrary to his



understanding. The Sec went into what he said to the Charge. He does not know how dependable the ticker is and M said it may not be.

pdb